



Central Ranges Local Learning &
Employment Network Inc.

Chairperson's Report 2008

2007 in Review

The Mission of the LLEN

"The mission of the Central Ranges LLEN is to lead and support the development of local, sustainable and meaningful partnerships in education and training that will lead to opportunities for young people, as well as directly supporting the needs of industries, companies or small to medium enterprises important to local or regional prosperity. The members of the Central Ranges Local Learning and Employment Network [CRLLEN] have a commitment to ensuring our communities have all the necessary resources at their disposal to fully participate in a rapidly changing world."

I am sure you will agree that this is no easy task, in effect working across the whole of community, industry, government and the education sector in 3 shires with a diverse range of place based issues. It isn't easy, but in 2007 the LLEN's board and members continued to collaborate with our stakeholders, leading, contributing and being a catalyst for change to improve pathways and opportunities for our young people.

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www.centralrangesllen.org.au/yer/	www.centralrangesllen.org.au/mya/	www.centralrangesllen.org.au/msc/

Let me share with you on behalf of the CRLLEN Board some of the key higher levels activities and achievements for 2007/2008.

Future Minds Forum

In July 2007, the LLEN hosted a two-day international leadership and education "Future Minds Forums" with the esteemed Professor Howard Gardner from Harvard University with over 500 LLEN stakeholders attending. Events such as this provide an opportunity for us to reflect on our progress and importantly help build new ideas, momentum, and enthusiasm for continued collaboration and effort. Importantly the Future Minds Forums greatly assisted the Board in exploring and supporting new approaches to working with and across our communities.

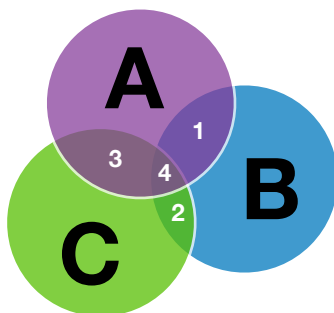
Community, Government and Industry Partnerships

The CRLLEN has been working with Industry Partners, the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD), DEECD Regional Offices and local communities to consider long-term partnerships that would lead to improved coordination and investment in educational infrastructure and importantly improved social and economic outcomes in many of the communities the LLEN serves. These partnerships will see Government, Industry and community working together to build opportunities for local communities to share in. This will include expanded employment and education pathways for young people and closer links between business and education providers.

Township Projects

The LLEN has been directly involved in supporting a series of integrated "township" projects across Kyneton, Mitchell South, Seymour, Kinglake and Lower Hume.

These projects involve large scale planning reform and renewal of post compulsory pathways across our 3 local government areas. The LLEN through its member networks and understanding of key place based issues has been able to make key contributions to these planning processes.



Informed Decision Making

The Central Ranges LLEN has always committed itself to making informed decisions based on all the available data and analysis concerning the requirements of our young people in the diverse communities which we cover. To this end, the LLEN has commissioned a revised and greatly enhanced environmental scan for 2008-2012 which will be published in the first half of 2008. With the current work on reform and renewal planning at many levels, this information is vital for all stakeholders and I encourage you to continue to seek out the support of the LLEN in utilising this comprehensive data.

Communicating and Collaborating

If you have met Bill Coppinger, our LLEN Chief Executive Officer, then you no doubt have been referred to the Central Ranges LLEN web site. Without a doubt, this web portal is the most up-to-date, relevant and useful information and collaboration tool for education and training representing our 3 shires. It provides a complete history of our LLEN and also the current issues, achievements, challenges and news; and importantly, an opportunity to engage in discussion around the key projects and issues. It also provides a host of tools and applications for all of our stakeholders with the aim to providing better pathways for young people. If you haven't already, visit the portal at :

<http://www.centralrangesllen.org.au>

Future Planning

Across the State, LLEN's have received a commitment from the State Government for a further three years of funding to the end of 2011.

This is great news and provides us with an excellent opportunity to develop a three year plan for the CRLLLEN. In the second half of this year we will engage in a planning process and will look to involve directly our CRLLLEN members to help the Board and CEO to develop a strategy for the LLEN.

Special Thanks

A sincere thank you to all of our Board Members who have volunteered their time and expertise over the past 12 months to the Central Ranges LLEN. The LLEN is a network of opportunity and we rely on our Board Members to connect with LLEN and community members in their sphere of influence to effect change, better practices, opportunities and outcomes for our young people.

I would particularly like to thank the Administration Committee consisting of Gerhard Hard, Christine Cox and Paul McCauley for their support, commitment and willingness to contribute above and beyond the call of duty in the support of the work of the LLEN.

Lastly, I would like to thank and congratulate Bill Coppinger on his work and achievements over the last 12 months. There are countless opportunities for the LLEN to engage in the activities and issues within our education and training sector. Bill has been able to lead and work with the Board to identify those key strategic focus areas where the LLEN's time and energy is best utilised to achieve long term benefits for our young people. Bill's continual drive, focus and in-depth knowledge of the area have the LLEN very well positioned.

In thanking Bill, I must also thank Natasha Geoghegan, our new Office Manager for the CRLLEN. Natasha joined the team in mid-2007 and has hit the ground running, providing great support to Bill, the Board and our members.

Of course, we must also thank Nicki Davies, our wonderful office manager who left us in 2007 to return home to Queensland with her family. Nicki's professionalism and attention to detail was a great support to all LLEN members.

Closing Remarks

From the CRLLEN's mission statement, the key word is partnerships.

The CRLLEN over the past 12 months has invested a great deal of energy in developing and working with partners to address the issues which we know exist through our extensive networks and environmental scan data. It is through partnerships we see the most beneficial and sustainable change and in moving forward we will continue to work with you all for this end to drive the establishment of meaningful partnerships to address the issues facing our young people.



Andrew Hocking

Manager

Corporate Citizenship & Corporate Affairs, IBM Australian New Zealand

Chairperson

Central Ranges Local Learning and Employment Network Inc.